to commercial users with effect from 20.3.1987. The higher rate of deposit in respect of such users has however been withdrawn.

3. Apprehensions were expressed about increased malpractices because of the change effected on 20.3.1987. While introducing the non-domestic price, the oil industry had taken care to identify the non-domestic customers, to colour-band the cylinders for such use and organise inspections of dealers and users to check malpractices, if any. Several deserving categories like hostels, canteens and hospitals have been exempted from the price increase. On a further review of the scheme, additional steps like the following have been taken to minimise the scope for malpractices:—

(i) Supply of cylinders of different size for non-domestic use wherever possible.

(ii) Maintenance of separate registers at the dealers level in respect of domestic and non-domestic consumers.

(iii) Reattachment of non-domestic customers from dealers indulging in malpractices to other dealers.

(iv) Placement of separate indents for domestic and non-domestic cylinders by the dealers.

(v) Adequate number of inspections by each Field Officer of non-domestic customers, etc.

4. The system is under constant review by the oil industry and Government and suitable remedial steps will continue to be taken to minimise malpractices.

Strike in ECL

*9. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Eastern Coalfields Limited has received a strike notice effective from 27th July, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the demands of the workers;

(c) whether any negotiations for settlement have since taken place; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir, but the Union has since agreed to defer the strike till 20-8-1987.

(b) The workers demanded settlement of all pending issues; the major issues which are being pressed for settlement relate to:

(i) Cases of employment of dependants of workers who died in service;

(ii) Cases of employment in Accident cases;

(iii) Cases of employment of land losers;

(iv) Supply of drinking water through filteration plants;

(v) Reinstatement of dismissed workers;

(vi) Welfare measures for workers.

(c) and (d) As a result of discussions held at various levels, a number of demands have been settled and further efforts are being made to settle the remaining demands by negotiations which are in progress. The conciliation machinery under the Industrial Disputes Act has also been involved.